Captain Seymour to Militia Department.

GODERICH, 6th June, 1864.

SIR:—I have the honor to report for the information and consideration of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief that Captain Ross, of the Foot Artillery Company of this place, has deemed proper to offer a grievous and unwarrantable insult to the Huron Rifles by accusing them "of want of honor and esprit de corps;" he has further increased the offence by refusing (when requested by me, his senior in the service) to withdraw such an offensive statement, remarking that his letter in which it was made *was not written without due consideration and that the conduct of the Rifle Company merited that statement.* Now I would most respectfully submit that such conduct is not only most reprehensible, but also extremely dangerous, as if one armed body is allowed to be insulted by the commander of another, the most disastrous results may ensue, especially if the insulted corps be commanded by an officer of violent temper, who was never accustomed to obey, before he was raised to command. A perusal of the correspondence herein enclosed will shew you that Capt. Ross has apparently wished to force the Huron Rifles into paying the part cost of a drill shed which the Town Council had promised me more than two years back to provide, and which they *have lately paid for.* This fact shews how correctly I acted in not imposing a liability of the Council's on my corps, tho' I distinctly said and wrote that if they had made any promises or engagements during my absence in Europe, they ought to be fulfilled honorably, and that I was ready to aid them financially so to do. Notwithstanding that he was aware of this, and had not applied to me on the matter since last November, Captain Ross, during my absence last month, writes to the Town Council stating that "*I had set an example of repudiation which the men of my Company had not been slow to follow,*" and when required to withdraw this most ungenerous and unsoldier-like statement, he writes me a letter of three pages on moral responsibility, accusing the Rifle Company of not only delinquencies but of "a want of honor and esprit de corps." Were such accusation true, Captain Ross ought to be the last person to taunt us therewith, as two of as flagrant instances of such deficiency as could occur were by him encouraged and patronized by being enlisted into his Company in violation of the Militia Law and General orders and one of the delinquents recommended for a commission, although he must have known the said individual had shamefully broken all the pledges he had voluntarily made on the formation of the corps and had been reduced by me to the ranks for *willful and contemptuous disobedience of orders.* In the case of the other man illegally enlisted by Captain Ross, a gross attempt at mutiny (see No. 10 of these papers) had to be added to his willful and continuous disobedience of orders. It is, I hope, unnecessary to add that this illegal and discreditable enlistment took place during my absence in Europe; had I been here, and had Captain Ross attempted a course of proceeding so totally subversive of all Military discipline, I should at once have brought the matter under the immediate consideration of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, but my senior subaltern either did not know or did not perform his duty. *I am told* that he was on very intimate terms with Capt. Ross, but this private friendship ought not to have caused him to forget what was due to the Corps in which he had the honor to hold a commission, he has been unfortunate and is now absent, therefore I shall not further comment on his extraordinary conduct in this matter." I transcribe the whole passage, as it is almost impossible from the slovenly and ungrammatical construction of this portion of his letter, to say distinctly what he endeavors to charge me with, and hence one of the reasons why I desired, before I noticed the *false statements attempted to be made,* to be furnished with a copy of the complaint and the papers accompanying it, which has not been done, and which may throw some light upon, or impart some meaning to it is otherwise unintelligible language. I presume, however, from what I have learned from other sources, that the enlistment into my company of something which is not stated, refers to two individuals, Mr. Kirk my first Lieutenant, and Mr. Hugh Gardiner formerly a member of my company, who were, I believe, at one time members of the Rifle Company; but who some months before the Artillery Company was formed, together with a number of the more respectable members of that company, resigned their connection with that company, in consequence, as they inform me, of Capt. Seymour's general ungentlemanly conduct and bearing towards his company, and also of his refusal from personal differences with Mr. Kirk to recommend that gentleman for Lieutenant of his company,* in accordance with the expressed desire of the members thereof. The subsequent connection of these gentlemen with the Artillery Company was as follows: At the time when Col. Wiley was here in the fall of 1862, at his desire I called a meeting of all those desirous of forming themselves into an Artillery Company, at which a large number attended, and at which about 37 names were entered on a Roll as willing to serve in such a company under officers yet to be nominated, amongst whom were the gentlemen named, who signed the roll not at my request or solicitation as I had never spoken to them on the subject. A few days afterwards, the parties who had signed the Roll met and nominated officers of whom Mr. Kirk was chosen one, and this miscalled enlistment took place *as Capt. Seymour well knows,* not during his absence in Europe as he states, but when he was in the Town of Goderich and personally in command of his company, and it is very ungenerous to say the least, for Capt. Seymour to endeavor to cast blame upon his Lieutenant, Mr. Wallace who is not here to defend himself, for an alleged direbliction of duty, for which if blame is to be attached, he himself is chargeable. To confirm my statement that Capt. Seymour was not absent but in Goderich, I may mention, that on the very day on which the meeting was held, at which Messrs. Kirk and Gardiner agreed with others to form themselves into an Artillery Company, Capt. Seymour in person commanded his company at target practice, at which Col. Wiley was I believe present. I therefore briefly repeat, that this portion of Capt. Seymour's letter is as untrue as I have already proved other portions of it to be by documents forwarded you in my last. That these gentlemen, if it is they who are alluded to, were never enlisted by me, but at a time when they were not members of any other company, without my a licitation, voluntarily agreed with a number of others to offer their services as Volunteers, when I was not Captain of the company, in fact before the company was in existence, and when Capt. Seymour was not in Europe, but in Goderich and in command of his company. The reducing of one of these gentlemen to the ranks I learned for the first time on perusing Capt. Seymour's letter.

Capt. Seymour in this part of his letter quoted, charges me with "an illagal and discreditable enlistment, with a violation of the Militia Law and General orders, with encouraging and patronizing two flagrant instances of deficiency, wilful disobedience of orders, mutiny, &c., &c." Now if I were so disposed I might require Capt. Seymour "to "retract his unwarrantable statements, and to "apologize for having made charges so unfounded and so opposed to all military etiquette and discipline," and ask against him before his resignation be accepted, which I believe at the desire of his company he has tendered, the application of the same laws of military etiquette which he has invoked against myself; but I have no such intention. I prefer treating such unfounded assertions with the contempt which they merit. If my own conduct will not support my character for honor or honesty, I shall not follow Capt. Seymour's example by troubling His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief with such matters, and I have only noticed this matter now, as Capt. Seymour's letter being on record in the Department, and a Court of Enquiry not having been granted me, I desire to put on record also my denial of the statements made.

I have the honor to be &c., &c.,
(Signed) A. M. ROSS,
Capt. G. G. G. A.

LIEUT.-COL. POWELL, Dep. Adjt. Gen. Militia, Quebec.

P. S.—For His Excellency's information I annex memoranda of the cost of the Drill Shed and how paid.

To cost of Drill Shed labor and material	$682.45
By grant from County Council	$200
By grant from Town Council made on the promise of the Companies to suscribe $200	$188.04
By rec'd from Agricultural Society for use of building	20.00
Subscription by Artillery Company, money $85.75, labor $48 20	133.95
Subscription by Rifle Company, labor $7.50, money about $7	14.50
Grant made by Town Council for balance to relieve Capt. Ross from liability owing to failure of Rifle Company to pay their proportion of the cost	125.96
	$682.45

* I am since informed that it was as Ensign, not Lieutenant, that Mr. Kirk was nominated.

Huron Signal.

GODERICH, C. W., FEB. 21, 1865.

FRENCH IRON-CLADS.

In connection with the rumors of impending recognition of the independence of the Southern Confederacy by France, we are informed that the Confederates have actually purchased and fitted out in French ports two iron-clads with which they intend, it is feared, to enter the harbor of New York and play the mischief generally. Whether there is any substantial foundation for any one of these rumors, is beyond our ken, but it is interesting to watch the attitude of American orators and writers in view of the evident danger of trouble with the Emperor. As we have endeavored to prove, on several occasions, the greatest enemy the North has had throughout this struggle was France. It was France that, in the face of the Monroe Doctrine, dared to enter into Mexico and set up a Monarchy upon the ruins of an effete Republic—it was the Emperor of the French who urged England two years ago to join him in recognizing the Confederacy, compliance with which would have led to the immediate independence of the South beyond a doubt,—and it is from France that we now have rumors of intervention, the equipment of iron-clads, &c. And how is all this received by excitable America? Why, the leading organs of Mr. Lincoln's Government say: Let the Mexican Monarchy alone and it will die of its own accord, because that country is too poor to maintain a court in the only style endurable by kings—let us not by any means aggravate the Emperor of the French, who might be only too glad to seek the safety of Mexico by espousing the cause of the insurgents of the Southern States. "Let us rather," say they, in effect, "curse our mother, England—let us forget that we drew from her our love of liberty, that *her* laws and institutions have formed the model for all that is good in our own, and that we cherish in our hearts the glory of her orators and writers as partly our own by inheritence—let us forget all, and serve our present ends by heaping reproach upon the noblest nation in existence." The hatred of England by the people of the United States is unreasonable and unjust, and can only be explained by the fact that it is engendered by the offscourings of the mother country and those who pander to them to secure a selfish end. If the signs of the times are read aright, France actually intends to interfere in American affairs as she has never done heretofore, and, if they are capable of sincerity, a certain class of American writers *must* transfer the wealth of their great abusive powers to "Napoleon and his minions."

Hon. Mr. Dorion on Liberty of Speech.

Mr. Dorion is at present in violent opposition to the Government, and, consequently, endeavors to throw every possible difficulty in the way of the consummation of the Confederation Scheme. In some respects his arguments, as set forth in the speech of last week, are plausible enough, but *some* of his sentiments are the strangest that were ever uttered by a professed liberal politician. He argues that Confederation can never adequately provide for the defence of British North America against the power of the United States, and he can only hope for our preservation as a distinct people by our good behavior towards the Americans. We, according to M. Dorion, are to be good boys and take care that we say or do nothing that can by any possibility rile Brother J., and above all he advises the "Canadian Government to *compel* the Press to cease its abuse of the American authorities." This is a direct insult that can be ill brooked, even from a Lower Canadian Legislator, possessing *liberal* proclivities. If Mr. Dorion reads the papers at all, he must know that the press of this country has in no case acted contrary to the spirit of the Queen's Proclamation of Neutrality, and that the treatment of subjects relating to or bearing upon the American War has in very few instances, if any, given rise to a departure from that freedom of speech which is now the cherished glory of every true Briton. Deprive us of that freedom—shackle the press, and that too from *fear*, the most abject of motives, and where would the retrogressive step land us? Who can fathom the depth of degradation to which we should sink?—Once ostracised of the right to criticise freely all passing events, the press, gagged and fettered, would cease its mission as the organ of Public opinion, and our populations would be made to feel that they had very little left worth struggling for. A very little reflection is sufficient to convince any intelligent mind that the principle and, indeed, *only* cause for American dislike of Canada is that her people, generally, express a strong feeling of attachment to the throne and person of Queen Victoria—that they are *British* to all intents and purposes. If we are to remove from amongst us all that can offend the eyes or ears of Americans, we must commence by disavowing our attachment to the mother country. Hence, the logical conclusion of Mr. Dorion's suggestion, if adopted, would be the receipt by newspaper publishers and editors of a Government circular, running somewhat as follows:—"1. You are not to abuse American authorities, however great the provocation. 2. If American writers abuse England, and insult you by the use of very gross language, you are to grin and bear it.' 3. Whereas British loyalty is to some very distasteful, you will, in future, be careful to strike strong expressions of such loyalty out of your editorial articles, extracts and reports of public dinners, &c. 4. If, in speaking of the war at all, you lean to either side, it *must* be to that of the federal government. 5. Disobedience to any one of the instructions contained above will lead to the immediate discontinuance, *by force*, of your journal." O, M. Dorion, we hope and trust that the day is past and gone when such a dastardly principle as that just enunciated by you can be listened to with complacency under the British flag!

Non-Resident Taxes.

Mr. Dickson has, during the present session of Parliament, introduced a Bill to provide for the more speedy collection of Non-Resident Taxes and to protect innocent purchasers of Real Property in arrears for Taxes, of which the following is the text:—

"Whereas in and by the Act respecting the assessment of properties in Upper Canada it is provided that no land shall be sold for taxes unless some portion thereof has been due for five years or such longer period and of such amount as a By-law of the proper Municipal Council provides, and it frequently happens that great injustice arises from the sale or morgage of non-resident lands having large arrears of taxes accrued upon them, to strangers ignorant of the fact, who pay the purchase or mortgage money and are afterwards compelled to pay the taxes for the recovery of which, from the purchaser, they have no available recourse: Therefore, Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly of Canada, enacts as follows:—

1. No Registrar in Upper Canada shall register any deed of sale, mortgage, assignment, or other instrument conveying or charging any land unless there be attached to such instrument a certificate of the Treasurer of the county or city in which such land is situate, that no arrears of taxes are due on such land, or a certificate that such land is not non-resident land; and such Treasurer is hereby required to give such certificate on payment or tender of a fee of ——— to which he shall be entitled for the same.

2. Neither the Commissioner of Crown Lands nor any agent under him, shall accept or treat as valid any assignment of any unpatented land of the Crown, unless to such assignment there be attached a certificate of the proper Treasurer to the effect mentioned in the next preceding section.

3. Any Registrar who shall register any instrument mentioned in the first section without the certificate thereby required, shall incur a penalty of ——— dollars, for each such offence; and any person who shall sell, assign, mortgage or charge any non resident land in Upper Canada, and receive any part of the purchase money or consideration for so doing, without producing and delivering to the purchaser, assignee or incumbrancer, the certificate required by the first section, shall by so doing forfeit to such purchaser, assignee or mortgagee and to be recovered as a debt due to him, three times the sum so received."

The Tea Meeting last night.

The Tea Meeting held in the Wesleyan Church last night (20th) was a splendid success. The attendance, not withstanding the *hard* times and the extra price of the tickets (37½ cts.), was very large, not less than 400 people having assembled — many, we noticed, from Clinton, Bayfield, Manchester and other neighboring villages. The repast set out on the numerous tables in the large basement was beautifully arranged and was served out without noise or confusion, to the great satisfaction of the guests.—In the centre of the room was an evergreen tree laden with all manner of candied fruits, and illuminated by numerous wax candles placed in the branches. After tea, the company entered the church above, and when all were seated, it might be said with truthfulness that few larger, more intelligent or respectable audiences of the kind have ever assembled in this town.—On the platform were Rev. R. Whiting, pastor and chairman, and Rev'ds Messrs. Stephenson, Philps, Jas Whiting, Shaw, and others. After a few pleasant remarks from one or two of the clergymen, Rev. Mr. Stephenson, being called upon, delivered a lecture upon "Martin Luther," which, for vigor of conception, breadth of generalization, and splendor of delivery was equal to any oratorical effort of the kind we have ever heard. One requires to listen to a discourse of this kind to appreciate the thrilling power of unadulterated Saxon when used by a highly-cultivated mind through organs evidently trained to the loftiest elocutionary capabilities. We shall not attempt to give even a sketch of an address extending over more than on hour, every part of which is inseperably connected with the whole; suffice it to say that it was listened to with breathless attention and that the speaker was repeatedly applauded throughout its delivery.

The choir, under the able leadership of D. Kerr, Jr., Esq., accompanied very tastefully on the harmonium by Miss Emma Androws, rendered one or two anthems and several select pieces in a style that evidently gave great satisfaction to the audience. We do not pretend to be a musical critic, but if it is not unpardonably invidious we would single out the beautiful soprano solo of Miss Susan Androws in "Watchman tell us of the Night," as just the kind of music we delight in, however much others may be pleased with the heavier harmonies of the more imposing choruses.

At the conclusion of the evening's proceedings, M. C. Cameron, Esq., rose and moved a vote of thanks to the Rev. Mr. Stephenson for his able and eloquent lecture. In thirty years' experience, he (Mr. C.) had never listened to an address of the kind with more pleasure. Robert Gibbons, Esq., Warden, after expressing himself as equally delighted, seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Rev. Mr. Philps moved and Rev. Mr. Stephenson seconded, a vote of thanks to the choir, which was also carried.

After a vote of thanks to the ladies who had labored so zealously in getting up the refreshments, &c., the meeting broke up. The sum realised for the trust fund from the meeting will be about $100.00.

The Lecture last Evening.

Rev. Mr. Carmichael's Lecture in the Court House last evening (16th) was well attended, the body of the room being filled by a respectable and intelligent audience. Rev. E. L. Elwood occupied the chair and introduced the speaker of the evening. Mr. Carmichael, in his usual eloquent strain, gave a series of mental jottings of a trip to Ireland and back, in which the audience was evidently deeply interested. Comparing the present with the past condition of the country, the lecturer came to the conclusion that in most sections, notwithstanding assertions to the contrary, peace and plenty had taken the place of squalidity and wretchedness.—We regret that the length of matters already in hand will not admit of a more lengthy sketch of the admirable address. At the conclusion, on motion of Mr. Leroy, seconded by Mr. Hugh Johnston, a vote of thanks was conveyed to Mr. Carmichael for the amusement and information he had afforded to the audience.

☞ Remember that Rev. Mr. Stephenson preaches in the Wesleyan Church, North St, on Sunday next, morning and evening, and that the Tea-meeting comes off on the Monday evening following.

CARRICK.

ATTEMT AT RAPE.—A colored man, by the name of Caliph Butler, attempted to commit a rape on a little girl, aged 11 years, daughter of Mr. Shenewar, of Balaklava, on Friday, the 27th ult. The brute was caught before he accomplished his hellish purpose, and taken to Walkerton, where he will remain in durance until the Sessions. This is the second time, within a few years, that this monster attempted rape, but evaded the law until now.

Literary Notices.

CHAMBERS JOURNAL.—We have received from Mr. Moorhouse the January No. of this favorite old British monthly, and we must say that few books of the kind are more welcome. The contents are varied and comprise articles suited to every taste but the utterly vitiated. We cordially recommend it to the heads of families.

☞ We have to thank our old friend, Angus McKay, jr., for a file of newspapers sent by him from the Pacific Coast.

☞ The very great length of the Military correspondence in this issue deprives us of much of the space assigned to other matters. As we frequently give lengthy reports of country demonstrations in which the town reader is not particularly interested, we hope we may reverse the case for once without causing annoyance.

PROHIBITION IN BOWMANVILLE.—Mr. Dankin's bill has been sustained in Bowmanville. The vote at the close of the second day stood, for the bill, 169; against 112. Although the contest was a hot one, no breach of the peace occurred.

The Scare in New York.

It appears from the latest information that Mr. Dudley, the United States Consul at Liverpool, has advised his government of the sailing of the two rams, with the additional fact that the men destined for the vessels had left Liverpool. The Sphynx has engines of three hundred and fifty horse power, and her ram is thirty five feet in length. She has two turrets, pierced collectively for eleven guns, and plated with iron four inches and three-eighths in thickness. Her hull is plated with four inch plates. The New York papers are in a pucker as to where these two vessels will go, and seem to wish if they come at all they should try their prowess up the James river first. Natural, very. The Herald says:—

"The remedy is in our hands, and it is for the Navy Department to use it properly. The timely and judicious distribution of our large iron clad navy, at all threatened points on the coast, and especially at the greater harbors, will be the only proper provision against the Stonewall and Rapidan. Our numberless swift blockaders should be already scouring the sea to give timely intimation of the approach of the enemy, and our iron clads should already be en route to their various positions."

A few days will see a great flurry in New York, or another guffaw at the last canard.

☞ The latest estimate of the force of the Federal and Confederate armies gives the North 530,000 men, and the South 248,000. This estimate is put forth by 'Druid,' the well known correspondent of the N. York *World*, and Grant 180,000 men, Lee being credited with only 75,000.

☞ Fechter the actor has given Charles Dickens a Swiss chaler as a present.

Epic Poem on the Murder of a Dorg.

It will be admitted by most persons that the poetical contributions published from time to time in the *Signal* are, generally speaking, unsuprassed by those of any other journal in the Province, and very seldom equaled; but we must admit that now and then the rhyme belongs to the slipshod persuasion. There is, however, in our "rejected" drawer a collection of poetical effusions that we read from on rainy and dull days to laugh off the blues. It is mighty queer stuff—the offspring of minds entirely uncultivated, beyond a sort of dim instinct that teaches even children to rhyme "stingo" with "jingo" and "bees" with "trees." The latest addition to this department is a *bona fide* Epic on the murder, of malice aforethought, of a faithful dorg. Time, February, 1865; scene, a wood-shed near Piper's Mills; villain, one of the best-natured men we have ever met; witness, a "servant gal." The said dorg must have been a pretty tough animal, for we are informed in verse three that the murderer shot him

"five times,
And then did not end his sufferings;
But let the poor harmless do(r)g,
Lay suffering in his own blood
In a most disgraceful state,
He shot away part of his (the dorg's) jaws,
And his ears and brains,
Were scattered all through the shed."

A doggy that could "lay suffering" after that deserves to be immortalized with the famous Kilkenny cats. The murderer's excuse for this deed of blood was that he thought the dorg mad, whereas, the poet in another verse says he was evidently mad himself. It is satisfactory, however, to know that the fiend has been seized by remorse, and asked God to pardon him." We have no room for more lengthy quotations, but the moral tacked into the whole transaction is that it is right and proper to

"Let dogs delight to bark and bite
For God has made them so."

We have no objections to the moral, but we state again that persons sending in poems of this sort, covering two pages of foolscap, should at least pre-pay the postage.

To the Editor of the 'Huron Signal.'

GODERICH, Feb. 20th, 1865.

DEAR SIR,—In the last issue of your valuable paper, I find a motion or resolution passed by the Board of Directors of the County of Huron Agricultural Society, at a meeting held by them on the 11th inst., at Dark's Hotel, in Goderich, to the following effect:—That every person obtaining a premium at the next Exhibition, will be charged a per centage upon it,—the amount not named. The reason for which I suppose is, they felt rather ashamed to give it at present. But upon inquiry, I was told by an official, that the per centage is to range from Five to Twenty per cent! Now, Mr. Editor, I would like to know, for why such an important idea was not brought forward at the Annual meeting, and the sense of it taken by the members there assembled? I am afraid that if such resolution be fully acted upon, it will prove a grievous mistake. I cannot doubt, but that honorable Board has the good of the Society at heart; and their united wishes is its prosperity. I can only suggest the obnoxious resolution be erased from the Minute Book, and never be allowed to show itself to day light again. If not—it is quite possible, that in a few short years the Agricultural Society of the County of Huron, may be amongst the things which have been.

I am, yours truly,
JOHN MOSELY.

The Amalgamation Bill.

THE INDIGNATION EXCITED BY IT.

The Quebec correspondent of the *Globe* says the numerous petitions presented against amalgamation yesterday had a decided effect on the House, by showing the sentiment of the country to be against Mr. Wood's Bill and the creation of a mammoth railway corporation. To avoid the six month's hoist which Mr. Macfarlane proposed moving, the Grand Trunk people postponed the second reading.—Members are receiving telegrams of petitions on the way against the Bill, among others from the County Council of Perth and the townships of Mitchell, Mornington, Fullarton and Ellice, Carronbrook &c. If the country continue to pronounce so unmistakenly against amalgamation, the Bill will have to be dropped. The Grand Trunk issued specious papers yesterday in favor of the Bill, and with the view of damaging the Great Western.—They have been powerless to turn the feeling of Parliament, which is strongly against the measure. The Grand Trunk, I hear, is attempting to cajole municipalities, and promising to benefit one locality at the injury of another. The Buffalo and Lake Huron Company is under written obligations to retain their workshops at Brantford. It is actually said that a telegram has this day been received from the Mayor of Stratford, intimating that it has been offered that if Stratford will petition for Mr. Wood's Bill, the Brantford workshops shall be removed to Stratford.

C. S. A. Iron-Clads at Sea.

SECRET TREATY BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE CONFEDERACY.

The New York Daily News of Saturday last publishes a letter from its London correspondent to which it gives great prominence, adding that the correspondent has never deceived it as to facts and that he has been singularly correct as to theories. The letter is a long one, but its purport may be briefly stated. The writer affirms positively that at the present moment there are two formidable iron-clads afloat in the open sea under the Confederate flag. These vessels, he says, were built in France; they are called the Sphynx and the Cheopa. The Sphynx is under the command of Henry de Riviere—the De Riviere of Emma Blount notoriety.—These monsters of the deep are represented as being the most powerful of their kind; armed with the heaviest and most effective ordnance, and invulnerable to any projectiles used in warfare. They could with impunity steam into New York harbor and reduce the city ashes, or exact a ransom that would fill the Confederate Treasury with greenbacks. The second statement of the correspondent is that there exists a secret alliance between France and the Southern Confederacy, and that the Emperor's own recognition will not be long delayed.

The London correspondent of the Herald confims these statements.

Provincial Parliament.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Feb. 14.

To day, after the House met, a message from His Excellency was read, setting forth a copy of his despatch to the Imperial Government, bearing date Dec. 29, relative to the calling out of a portion of the volunteer force for service on the frontier; also, a dispatch from Mr. Cardwell, dated Jan. 23, expressing the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at the readiness with which the volunteers turned out.

The Report of the Committee of the whole on Hon. Mr. Cockburn's resolutions, respecting fees of registrars, &c., in Upper Canada, was read.

The House went into a Committee of Supply, on motion of Mr. Galt, Mr. Street in the Chair.

The first item of supplementary estimates, being the sum required for the volunteer force serving on the frontier, was adopted; the second item, being the sum of $50,000 to make good the amount improperly surrendered to the St. Albans raiders, was also carried.

After a long debate, the Committee then arose and reported the resolutions. The report of the Committee is to be received on Friday.

The House adjourned at four minutes to 6 p. m.

On Wednesday 15th, Hon. J. S. McDonald moved for an appropriation to erect a monument to the memory of the late Hon. W. H. Merritt. All correspondence between the Imperial and Provincial Governments is to be laid before the House. Quite a farce was enacted on the bunkum Bill of Mr. McConkey to reduce the indemnity of members from $6.00 to $4.00 per diem. Very little danger of such a Bill being carried! Human nature rules even legislators and the Bill was thrown out in Committee.

The following Bills were read a second time and referred to committees:—

To amend the Act respecting the Bureau of Agriculture and Agricultural Societies.—Mr. Dickson.

For the preservation of standing timber in Lower Canada.—Mr. Geoffrion.

To define the right of property in swarms of bees, and to exempt them from seizure in certain cases.—Mr. Geoffrion.

To amend the provisions of the law for the encouragement of Agriculture, &c., in Lower Canada.—Mr. Perrault.

To amend sections 75 and 97 of the Municipal Institutions Act of Upper Canada.—Mr. Jones, South Leeds.

To amend the Lower Canada Consolidated Municipal Act, chap. 24 Consolidated Statutes of Lower Canada.—Mr. Bellerose.

To make Reeves and Deputy Reeves elective by the direct vote of the people in Upper Canada.—Mr. McKellar.

The House adjourned at a quarter to twelve.

Loss by Fire of H. M. S. Bombay.

SUPPOSED LOSS OF 93 LIVES.

The following despatch, addressed to Lord Clarence Paget, was received at the Admiralty on Sunday night:—

LISBON, January 15, 2.30 P.M.

Admiral Elliott reports the total loss of H. M. S. Bombay, by fire, at Montevideo, on the 14th December. Mr. Smallhorn, assistant-surgeon, of the officers alone is missing, but 93 of the crew are supposed to be lost. Lieut. Starling, bearer of the despatches, proceeds by the French packet to Bordeaux to-day.

A later despatch from Admiral Elliott, Montevideo, December 15, confirms the sad account of the loss of Her Majesty's ship Bombay, by fire, on the preceding day. It appears that the fire broke out in the afternoon, shortly after the men had finished the great gun exercise, and, though an abundant supply of water was immediately obtained, the flames spread with uncontrollable rapidity. The Admiral thinks that the fire broke out close to the spirit room, and that the spirit casks burst with the heat, and, of course, materially assisted the conflagration. The loss of men is reported to be 93, but as the boats were picked up by different vessels, there is still room to hope that the number is overstated. The boats had not got clear of the ship when the mainmast fell, and, as the men were clustering about the anchors waiting to be picked up, the anchors fell into the water, and many lives were lost in this way.

Another Western Fire.

ADELAIDE, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX. February 13, 1865.

Last night (Sunday), at eight o'clock, a fire broke out in the large barn of Mr. W. Daniels, on the Egremont Road, Adelaide Township, about three miles and a half from Strathroy. It was at once apparent that there would be no possible use endeavoring to check the progress of the flames—for when discovered they were spreading so rapidly that in twenty minutes one sheet of flame enveloped the entire premises, and in half an hour the structure and its contents were a smouldering mass of ruins. The agricultural implements destroyed were a threshing machine, fanning mill, front of a waggon, 34 bushels of wheat, a quantity of oats, flails, measures and other articles. Mr. Daniels states that no light had been near the barn, to his knowledge, for six months—that no one of his workmen or family had been near the barn for four hours prior to the occurrence of the fire—and that the work was evidently accomplished by an incendiary. The barn stood about forty rods from the house, and the fire broke out, to all appearences, near the loft—as though fire had been slipped through a crack in the boards. The insurance policy had expired in January last, and Mr. Daniels for some time refused to insure a second time, but being urged by the agent of the Middlesex Mutual Company, ultimately consented, and insured the barn and contents for $700, which he now has no reason to regret having done. The loss will be fully $1,000 or more, and it is to be hoped some steps will be taken to discover the perpetrators of the crime. Indeed, so disheartened is Mr. Daniels that he expresses his intention of leaving the district—though this is not likely, as he has lived and prospered there for years.

Accident on the Grand Trunk.

The Guelph Advertiser says:—Between 10 and 11 o'clock this morning, an accident occurred on the Grand Trunk Railway about one mile east of this town, by which several persons were more or less injured. No. 5 mail train going east left Guelph Station at 10.30 with some thirty passengers on board but had not proceeded more than a mile when the passenger car got off the track. In this manner it was drawn by the engine for about 100 yards, when it went over an embankment some twenty or thirty feet high, and lodged upside down against the fence at the bottom. Efforts were quickly made to rescue the unfortunate inmates, when it was found that almost miraculously no one was killed, although several were more or less hurt. The Hon M H Foley was found to be the most seriously hurt, and he was at once conveyed on a hand car to the station, and thence to his house, where Dr Clarke was quickly in attendance.

☞ Lobster boiled in champagne is the latest Parisian delicacy.

☞ The township of London has rejected Mr. Dunkin's temperance act by vote of 655 to 435. St. Mary's (Iowa) has also rejected it by a vote of 134 to 124.

A nugget of gold found lately on the Gilbert River, Chaudiere District, weighing 12 oz., fourteen dwt., has been exhibited to the Gold Committee and others.

Captain Seymour to Militia Department.

GODERICH, 6th June, 1864.

SIR:—I have the honor to report for the information and consideration of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief that Captain Ross, of the Foot Artillery Company of this place, has deemed proper to offer a grievous and unwarrantable insult to the Huron Rifles by accusing them "of want of honor and esprit de corps;" he has further increased the offence by refusing (when requested by me, his senior in the service) to withdraw such an offensive statement, remarking that his letter in which it was made *was not written without due consideration and that the conduct of the Rifle Company merited that statement.* Now I would most respectfully submit that such conduct is not only most reprehensible, but also extremely dangerous, as if one armed body is allowed to be insulted by the commander of another, the most disastrous results may ensue, especially if the insulted corps be commanded by an officer of violent temper, who was never accustomed to obey, before he was raised to command. A perusal of the correspondence herein enclosed will shew you that Capt. Ross has apparently wished to force the Huron Rifles into paying the part cost of a drill shed which the Town Council had promised me more than two years back to provide, and which they *have lately paid for.* This fact shews how correctly I acted in not imposing a liability of the Council's on my corps, tho' I distinctly said and wrote that if they had made any promises or engagements during my absence in Europe, they ought to be fulfilled honorably, and that I was ready to aid them financially so to do. Notwithstanding that he was aware of this, and had not applied to me on the matter since last November, Captain Ross, during my absence last month, writes to the Town Council stating that "*I had set an example of repudiation which the men of my Company had not been slow to follow,*" and when required to withdraw this most ungenerous and unsoldier-like statement, he writes me a letter of three pages on moral responsibility, accusing the Rifle Company of not only delinquencies but of "a want of honor and esprit de corps." Were such accusation true, Captain Ross ought to be the last person to taunt us therewith, as two of as flagrant instances of such deficiency as could occur were by him encouraged and patronized by being enlisted into his Company in violation of the Militia Law and General orders and one of the delinquents recommended for a commission, although he must have known the said individual had shamefully broken all the pledges he had voluntarily made on the formation of the corps and had been reduced by me to the ranks for *willful and contemptuous disobedience of orders.* In the case of the other man illegally enlisted by Captain Ross, a gross attempt at mutiny (see No. 10 of these papers) had to be added to his willful and continuous disobedience of orders. It is, I hope, unnecessary to add that this illegal and discreditable enlistment took place during my absence in Europe, had I been here and had Capt. Ross attempted a course of proceeding so totally subversive of all military discipline, I should at once have brought the matter under the immediate consideration of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, but my senior subaltern either did not know or did not perform his duty. *I am told* that he was on very intimate terms with Capt. Ross, but this private friendship ought not to have caused him to forget what was due to the Corps in which he had the honor to hold a commission, he has been unfortunate and is absent, therefore I shall not further comment on his extraordinary conduct in this matter." I transcribe the whole passage, as it is almost impossible from the slovenly and ungrammatical construction of this portion of his letter, to say distinctly what he endeavors to charge me with, and hence one of the reasons why I desired, before I noticed the *false statements attempted to be made,* to be furnished with a copy of the complaint and the papers accompanying it, which has not been done, and which may throw some light upon, or impart some meaning to it is otherwise unintelligible language. I presume, however, from what I have learned from other sources, that the enlistment into my company of something which is not stated, refers to two individuals, Mr. Kirk my first Lieutenant, and Mr. Hugh Gardiner formerly a member of my company, who were, I believe, at one time members of the Rifle Company; but who some months before the Artillery Company was formed, together with a number of the more respectable members of that company, resigned their connection with that company, in consequence, as they inform me, of Capt. Seymour's general ungentlemanly conduct and bearing towards his company, and also of his refusal from personal differences with Mr. Kirk to recommend that gentleman for Lieutenant of his company,* in accordance with the expressed desire of the members thereof. The subsequent connection of these gentlemen with the Artillery Company was as follows: At the time when Col. Wiley was here in the fall of 1862, at his desire I called a meeting of all those desirous of forming themselves into an Artillery Company, at which a large number attended, and at which about 37 names were entered on a Roll as willing to serve in such a company under officers yet to be nominated, amongst whom were the gentlemen named, who signed the roll not at my request or solicitation as I had never spoken to them on the subject. A few days afterwards, the parties who had signed the Roll met and nominated officers of whom Mr. Kirk was chosen one, and this miscalled enlistment took place *as Capt. Seymour well knows,* not during his absence in Europe as he states, but when he was in the Town of Goderich and personally in command of his company, and it is very ungenerous to say the least, for Capt. Seymour to endeavor to cast blame upon his Lieutenant, Mr. Wallace who is not here to defend himself, for an alleged direbliction of duty, for which if blame is to be attached, he himself is chargeable. To confirm my statement that Capt. Seymour was not absent but in Goderich, I may mention, that on the very day on which the meeting was held, at which Messrs. Kirk and Gardiner agreed with others to form themselves into an Artillery Company, Capt. Seymour in person commanded his company at target practice, at which Col. Wiley was I believe present. I therefore briefly repeat, that this portion of Capt. Seymour's letter is as untrue as I have already proved other portions of it to be by documents forwarded you in my last. That these gentlemen, if it is they who are alluded to, were never enlisted by me, but at a time when they were not members of any other company, without my a licitation, voluntarily agreed with a number of others to offer their services as Volunteers, when I was not Captain of the company, in fact before the company was in existence, and when Capt. Seymour was not in Europe, but in Goderich and in command of his company. The reducing of one of these gentlemen to the ranks I learned for the first time on perusing Capt. Seymour's letter.

Capt. Seymour in this part of his letter quoted, charges me with "an illagal and discreditable enlistment, with a violation of the Militia Law and General orders, with encouraging and patronizing two flagrant instances of deficiency, wilful disobedience of orders, mutiny, &c., &c." Now if I were so disposed I might require Capt. Seymour "to "retract his unwarrantable statements, and to "apologize for having made charges so unfounded and so opposed to all military etiquette and discipline," and ask against him before his resignation be accepted, which I believe at the desire of his company he has tendered, the application of the same laws of military etiquette which he has invoked against myself; but I have no such intention. I prefer treating such unfounded assertions with the contempt which they merit. If my own conduct will not support my character for honor or honesty, I shall not follow Capt. Seymour's example by troubling His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief with such matters, and I have only noticed this matter now, as Capt. Seymour's letter being on record in the Department, and a Court of Enquiry not having been granted me, I desire to put on record also my denial of the statements made.

I have the honor to be &c., &c.,
(Signed) A. M. ROSS,
Capt. G. G. A.

LIEUT.-COL. POWELL, Dep. Adjt. Gen. Militia, Quebec.

P. S.—For His Excellency's information I annex memoranda of the cost of the Drill Shed and how paid.

To cost of Drill Shed labor and material	$682.45
By grant from County Council	$200
By grant from Town Council made on the promise of the Companies to suscribe $200	$188.04
By rec'd from Agricultural Society for use of building	20.00
Subscription by Artillery Company, money $85.75, labor $48 20	133.95
Subscription by Rifle Company, labor $7.50, money about $7	14.50
Grant made by Town Council for balance to relieve Capt. Ross from liability owing to failure of Rifle Company to pay their proportion of the cost	125.96
	$682.45

* I am since informed that it was as Ensign, not Lieutenant, that Mr. Kirk was nominated.

Capt Ross to Militia Department.

GODERICH, Oct. 18th, 1861.

SIR—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 6th inst., informing me that His Excellency the Commander in-Chief, having had under consideration a correspondence which had taken place between Captain Seymour and myself relating to the expense of erecting a